4. Hindi
5. Kannada
6. Kashmiri
7 Marathi
8 Malayalam
9 Oriya
10 Punjabi
11. Tamil
12. Telugu
13 Urdu

In addition, some of the Doordarshan Kendras also telecast programmes in Konkani, Sindhi, Sanskrit, Dogri, Himachali, Gojri, and Nepali.

Welfare Programmes For Former/ Retired Soldiers

1373. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what are the welfare programmes taken by Government for former/ retired soldiers and for the families of handicapped or martyred soldiers so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): There is a comprehensive package of resettlement and welfare measures for the ex-Servicemen. The Central Government has provided reservation for ex-Servicemen in Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts in Central Government Departments, as well as Public Sector Undertaking, including the Nationalised Banks. Defence Services personnel who have been disabled either in war or in peace time and whose disability is attributable to military service, are accorded Priority-I, while upto two dependants of Defence Services personnel killed/ disabled in action including war widows, are entitled to Priority-II (A) (disabled with over 50 per cent disability/and unfit for employment, but disability attributable to military service), for purposes of employment under Central Government, against Groups 'C' and 'D' posts. Most State Governments have also provided for reservation in Civil posts, in varying degrees, in favour of the ex-Servicemen. Besides, a number of schemes are in existence to provide self-employment opportunities to ex-Servicemen. These include the SEMFEX-I scheme which provides financial assistance to ex-Servicemen for setting up small industrial projects; the SEMFEX-II scheme to encourage ex-Servicemen to take up gainful farm and non-farm activities in rural areas; allotment of Petroleum product agencies; allotment of Unit Trust of India agencies; transportation agencies for coal and petroleum products; price subsidy to ex-Servicemen for small scale industrial units for products supplied to Defence Establishments, etc.

Ex-Servicemen are authorised free medical facility in military hospitals and canteen facilities at the nearest CSD canteens. Two hundred twenty five Sainik Rest Houses are in existence at different places all over the country to enable ex-Servicemen to stay for short duration.

Chilren of defence personnel killed or disabled in action are entitled to feee educational facilities such as fees, hostel carges, cost of uniform, etc. Seventy five per cent concession in rail fare for travel in second class is given to all war widows. The recipients of gallantry awards are given 50% concession for air and rail travel in second class. Twenty six War Memorial Hostels have been constructed in various Regimental Centres for providing accommodation towards of war widows,

war disabled and attributable peace-time casualties. A stipend of Rs. 400/- per month is paid to each eligible ward. Financial assistance for construction of houses and marriage of daughters is given to war widows, war disabled and attributable peace-time casualties by State Governments and the Kendriya Sainik Board.

Ex-servicemen and their widows, who are in penury, are given financial assistance by the Kendriya Sainik Board, the Defence Minister's Appellate Committee and the Rajya Sainik Boards through their welfare funds. Grants are also given for special medical treatment. The Kendirya Sainik Board also gives grants to paraplegic homes, Cheshire Homes and other charitable institutions to cater for expenditure incurred on ex-servicemen inmates.

E.T.V. programmes on Doordarshan

1374 CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan telecasts some programmes on Channel-I from 9.00 a.m. onwards under the caption "E T V in Telugu and E T V. in Hindi, ETV in Marathi and E T V in Gujarathi,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and to which listeners are they meant;

(c) whether the said programmes could be viewed from Delhi Centre; and

(d) if not, from which T V Centres they could be viewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) (a) to (d) The Educational TV (ETV) programmes are in the nature of non-formal education aimed at primary school children and also for the guidance/training of primary school teachers The duration of the programme, in each language, is 45 minutes The programmes are telecast via ARABSAT/ STATIONAR in Telugu and Marathi from Hyderabad Kendra in Andhra Pradesh and Bombay Kendra in Maharashtra respectively.

The programmes in Oriya for Orissa, Gujarati for Gujarat and Hindi (meant for the three district clusters of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar) are relayed by all TV Relay transmitters in the respective States and Hindi speaking States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryara, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, via INSAT-ID. These programmes are telecast between 0900 Hours and 1245 Hours every day, on time sharing mode from all High Power/Low Power transmitters in the respective State and are not viewed in Delhi.

Non payment of salaries to employees of National Council for safety in mines, Dhanbad

1375. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of the National Council for Safety in Mines, Dhanbad (Bihar) have not got their salaries for the past four months;

(b) whether the Labour Ministry is responsible for providing remuneration to the staff of National Council for Safety in Mines Dhanbad,

(c) whether it is also a fact that as against its annual expenditure of about Rs 25 lakhs, the National Council for Safety in Mines is getting a paltry sum of Rs 5 lakhs only from Government;

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to ensure regular payment of salaries to the staff of National Council for Safety in Mines and also to pay them their unpaid salaries;

(e) whether an expert committee set up in 1985 by the Central Government recommended strengthening of the National Council for Safety in Mine's network through expansion; and